

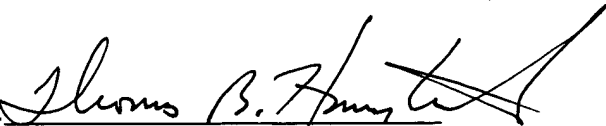
REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-17 are pending in this case. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-11, 16 and 17 have been allowed. Within the Office Action, Claims 12, 13 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rabenecker (UK 2339834) in view of Zuckerman et al. (US 5890634) and further in view of Vondrachek (US 3383963). A telephone interview was held between the Examiner and the undersigned on October 27, 2004. The Applicants gratefully thank the Examiner for his thoughtful comments and insights during the telephone interview. The pending rejections were discussed, including whether the cited references were analogous art and whether there is any motivation in the references to make the combination suggested. During the interview, the amendment to Claim 12 made above was discussed. The Examiner stated that the proposed amendment appeared to distinguish over the cited references and combinations of those references. The Examiner did not say that the amendment would put the case into a condition for allowance. Rather, the Examiner indicated that another search would be required before all the claims will be allowed.

In view of the above amendments, the Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the Claims are now in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a prompt and favorable disposition of this case. Should any issue remain preventing allowance of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 530-9700 to resolve the outstanding issue.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 11-2-04

By: 

Thomas B. Haverstock

Reg. No.: 32,571

Attorneys for Applicants

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

- 6 -

HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Date: 11/2/04 By: 